

MDP Resolutions Packet Fall 2022

Resolution Calling for Federal General Election Days to Be Made a National Holiday	1
Resolution in Support of Promoting Free and Fair Elections	2
Resolution Opposing the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission's Insufficient Compliance with the Voting Rights Act in 2021 Redistricting	3
Resolution in Support of Promote the Vote's Ballot Initiative	4
Resolution in support of full inclusion voting rights and combating voter suppression	5
Resolution in Support of Reproductive Rights for All	6
Resolution in Support of PFAS Legislation	7
Resolution Supporting Climate Change Legislation	8
Resolution in Support of Removing Enbridge Line 5 from the Great Lakes	9
Resolution in Honor of the life of Progressive Activist Zahra Abbas	13
Resolution in Support of Bans on Semi-Automatic Assault Weapons and Large-Capacity Ammunition Devices	15
Resolution in Support of Local Control of Vacation and Short-term Rentals	16

Resolution Calling for Federal General Election Days to Be Made a National Holiday

WHEREAS, the core principle of democracy is citizen input through the voting process; and

WHEREAS, the right to vote is a critical component of the determination of our leaders and policies; and

WHEREAS, not all citizens can qualify for absentee ballots; and

WHEREAS, the schedules of work, family, and daily life often prevent Americans from voting during traditional voting hours

WHEREAS, no citizen should be disenfranchised due to the schedule of their daily life

BE IT RESOLVED, that the MDP supports legislation to make federal General Election Day a national holiday.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chair of the Michigan Democratic Party (MDP) shall, on the Party's behalf, consult and collaborate with Michigan's congressional delegation for the purpose of determining the most effective path to drafting legislation, gaining support and co-sponsors, and lobbying for its passage.

Resolution in Support of Promoting Free and Fair Elections

WHEREAS, organizations have called the legitimacy of the 2020 election into question, including numerous claims of voter fraud and election equipment conspiracies; and

WHEREAS, election workers have been put under unnecessary pressure and even had their safety threatened, resulting in many longtime election workers no longer planning to work at polling places; and

WHEREAS, there have been multiple instances of conservative election-deniers illegally seizing or gaining access to election equipment in multiple locations across Michigan

WHEREAS, every registered voter has the right to vote without intimidation and have their vote counted; and

WHEREAS, every voter, election official, poll worker, challenger, campaign representative, and journalist has the right to carry out their task without intimidation or fear for their safety

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party (MDP) strongly supports any necessary actions, including legislation, to ensure that elections can be held in a fair, safe and open manner and that tabulation and certification of election results is allowed to take place without illegal interference.

Resolution Opposing the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission's Insufficient Compliance with the Voting Rights Act in 2021 Redistricting

WHEREAS, Michigan voters, including many active democrats, created the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) in 2018, and

WHEREAS, many active democrats still support this new process but are shocked or troubled by the 2021 results, and

WHEREAS, This amendment makes compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act (VRA) its first among seven priorities, and

WHEREAS, Every community should have the right to elect its own representatives, and

WHEREAS, African Americans are a significant part of the democratic party, and
Whereas: This commission largely ignored African American representation in creating no majority resolution on redistricting Commission, minority Congressional, or State Senate Districts, and only 6 (where this is now 12) majority, minority State House Districts, and

WHEREAS, As an example, Brittini Kellom, 1 of 2 African American commissioners, presented a plan with 3 majority, minority State Senate Districts (where now there are 4) and said it was for "representation," and this plan changed no out state district lines, only those in Metropolitan Detroit, and it was rejected by the commissioners, and

WHEREAS, The commission received a questionable report by an entrepreneur (remove entrepreneur?) Lisa Handley that a 40% African American district is "majority, resolution on redistricting Commission minority," (in plain English, this would be a "plurality, minority "district) – a definition found nowhere in the US, now and

WHEREAS, The results of the August 2022 primary election are: no African American representation in Congress (the first time since 1955), no African American male State Senator (first time in the last 22 years), and only half of the African American State House members as before redistricting

BE IT RESOLVED, that The Michigan Democratic Party (MDP) condemns the MICRC for its insensitivity to the African American community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the MDP urges the Michigan Supreme Court to send the maps back to the MICRC for a more legal and sensitive version.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MDP is urged to file an amicus brief in the ongoing federal lawsuit challenging the MICRC's insufficient compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act.

Resolution in Support of Promote the Vote's Ballot Initiative

WHEREAS, Voting rights in Michigan have been threatened by a barrage of legislative proposals that would effectively limit the ability of qualified Michigan electors to vote in the State of Michigan; and,

WHEREAS, A coalition of various groups ("Promote the Vote 2022") recognizes the threats to voting rights posed by these legislative and citizen led petition initiatives and further recognizes that voting rights can best be protected by amending the constitution of the State of Michigan so that these rights are enshrined therein, overriding any legislative changes to voting rights; and,

WHEREAS, Promote the Vote would amend Michigan's Constitution to:

- Allow for receipt and counting of absentee ballots from military and overseas voters beyond Election Day as long as the ballot is postmarked by Election Day
- Publicly subsidize mailing and tracking of absentee ballots
- Maintain the right of voters to sign an "Affidavit of Voter Not in Possession of Photo ID" in order to vote
- Allow public resources and charities to provide supplemental funding for local elections
- Allow voters to register once to receive absentee ballots for all future elections

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party (MDP) endorses and supports the "Promote the Vote 2022" ballot proposal as the best approach to permanently securing voting rights in Michigan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chair of the MDP, on the Party's behalf, shall ensure Michigan's congressional delegation and the Presidential administration each set the protection and expansion of voting rights among their highest priorities.

Resolution in support of full inclusion voting rights and combating voter suppression

WHEREAS, a struggle over voting inclusion began almost as soon as the new U.S. Constitution was adopted in 1787, and

WHEREAS, the struggle for franchise has spanned 235 years so far, with no signs of abatings; and

WHEREAS, over those 235 years, the opposition has targeted and suppressed multiple populations in the attempt to prevent them from gaining the right to vote, including white men who did not own property or were born in another country, then white women, then African American men, then African American women, then adults younger than 21 years old, then people with disabilities, then people who use a language other than English, then racial and ethnic minorities of all backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, the voting right act section 5 was struck down, the result has been voter suppression aimed at people of color, as well as targeted groups such as the disability community, students, the elderly and women.

WHEREAS, States that used to need preclearance have passed laws to disenfranchise even more voters, these anti-democratic prejudices have spread to new States that never needed pre-clearance

WHEREAS, yesterday the opposition was suppressing one group of people, and today they are also suppressing another group of people, and they will continue to target and oppress additional voters and citizens tomorrow and all the days after that, until law and society force them to cease; so

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party (MDP) expresses, through its elected members in Congress and by means of appropriate legislation, its deep commitment to protecting the right to vote for every American citizen, without fear or favor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MDP urge Democrats in Washington D.C. to push harder to protect voting rights across the country.

Resolution in Support of Reproductive Rights for All

WHEREAS, The “Reproductive Rights for All” proposal will affirm that every person has the fundamental right to reproductive autonomy, guaranteeing the right to make and carry out decisions without political interference about all matters relating to pregnancy, including birth control, abortion, prenatal care, and childbirth; and,

WHEREAS, This measure will ensure that all Michigan citizens have the right to safe and respectful care during birthing; and,

WHEREAS, This measure will ensure that all Michigan citizens have the right to use temporary or permanent birth control; and,

WHEREAS, This measure will ensure that all Michigan citizens have the unfettered right to continue or end a pregnancy pre-viability free from punishment for having a miscarriage, stillbirth, or abortion

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Michigan Democratic Party (MDP) endorses and supports the “Reproductive Freedom for All” ballot proposal and encourages all Michigan voters to do the same.

Resolution in Support of PFAS Legislation

WHEREAS, chemicals commonly known as PFAS were commonly used in manufacturing processes and were contained in firefighting foam; and

WHEREAS, these PFAS are called “forever chemicals” because of their extremely slow breakdown rate; and

WHEREAS, the EPA in June 2022 issued a statement that negative health effects may occur when PFAS are detected in water at extremely low concentration levels; and

WHEREAS, many communities around the State of Michigan are detecting levels of PFAS in drinking water supplies; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has stated that prolonged exposure to PFAS can have adverse health effects like: liver damage, reproduction difficulties and growth and development challenges;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party (MDP) strongly supports PFAS legislation that: authorizes widespread testing for PFAS in Michigan communities, provides funding for necessary mitigation efforts and provides assistance to citizens affected by prolonged PFAS exposure.

Resolution Supporting Climate Change Legislation

WHEREAS, climate scientists recognize that human usage of fossil fuels has caused a rise in temperatures on the planet, and single-use plastics are detrimental to our environment, health, and the future of our planet; and

WHEREAS, this rise in temperatures is leading to more and larger catastrophic climate events such as hurricanes, tornadoes and wildfires; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that mitigation steps be taken as soon as possible; and

WHEREAS, to be effective these mitigation steps must be the result of legislation;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party (MDP) strongly supports legislation that would include: the lowering of carbon emissions, the promotion of usage of clean, renewable energy sources, the lowering of usage of fossil fuels, the development of green infrastructure such as recharging stations and the development of technologies that remove excess CO₂ from the atmosphere.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party (MDP) supports a ban on single-use plastics, beginning with shopping bags and water bottles.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MDP salutes President Biden and the Democrats in Congress for passing the Inflation Reduction Act's significant investment in combating climate change.

Resolution in Support of Removing Enbridge Line 5 from the Great Lakes

WHEREAS, Enbridge of Canada operates a 4.5-mile segment of its Line 5 oil pipeline in the Straits of Mackinac; and

WHEREAS, Line 5 predominantly transports Canadian products from Canadian origins to Canadian destinations for use by Canadian customers; and

WHEREAS, Line 5 pumps 23 million gallons of crude oil across nearly 550 miles of Michigan land and 400 bodies of Michigan water every day, yet more than 94% of that material is transported to Canadian refineries for the Canadian domestic market, and only 6% stays in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Line 5 through the Straits of Mackinac is located on land and surrounded by waters that are all property of the State of Michigan, held in permanent trust and preserved for the people of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Line 5 was permitted to be present on those State lands and permitted to operate in those State waters through a revocable Easement granted in 1953; and

WHEREAS, Line 5 was designed and permitted to lay on the lake bottomlands, but to avoid dangerous sags is now suspended in the strong Straits currents by means of over 200 sets of anchor-screw supports which have never been independently evaluated for their impact on safe operation of suspended pipelines; and

WHEREAS, a 2018 study from Michigan Tech University concluded that a major rupture of Line 5 under the Straits would result in a 2.5 million gallon spill oiling over 700 miles of Michigan shoreline, with damages in excess of \$6 billion in 2018 dollars, causing irreversible economic losses in tourism, commercial navigation, recreational boating, commercial and sport fishing, declines in property values, contamination of drinking water, as well as decades of environmental and public health damages and the immediate loss of more than 25,000 tourist jobs; and

WHEREAS, Line 5 has leaked over one million gallons of oil since 1968; and

WHEREAS, in July 2010, Enbridge's Line 6B spilled over one million gallons of heavy crude into the Kalamazoo River Watershed, causing a \$1.2 billion clean-up effort, demonstrating that continued operations of Line 5 pose a major risk of severe damage and economic loss to individuals, businesses, Native American communities and the environment; and

WHEREAS, Line 5 has experienced at least three anchor strikes since April 2018, and no monitoring or other precautions can prevent an anchor strike in the event of a navigation

emergency or negligent boater; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Tech Study of 2018 documented the wide devastation to the fisheries, wetlands, birds, vegetation and aquatic life from a Straits oil spill noting that only a 30% oil recovery is the norm under ideal conditions; and

WHEREAS, a massive oil spill clean-up effort would be extremely difficult due to the frequently-reversing current in the Straits, the variable currents in both Lake Michigan and Lake Huron, strong winds, high waves, ice cover, and other adverse weather conditions common to the area; and

WHEREAS, Enbridge has repeatedly and willfully violated the 1953 Easement by refusing to indemnify and hold harmless all potential oil spill victims in the event of its bankruptcy; and

WHEREAS, Line 5 delivers less than 40% of the propane used in the Upper Peninsula, and provides only modest revenue to the State and its municipalities; and

WHEREAS, a recent industry consulting firm reported that decommissioning Line 5 would cause only a modest rise in gasoline and propane prices in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the Upper Peninsula's Rapid River propane terminal has capacity to store 360,000 gallons of propane, and the Upper Peninsula's peak daily usage (54,600 gallons) could be fully supplied via 1-2 rail cars, 4-5 trucks, or a new smaller pipeline from Superior, Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the crude oil that Line 5 supplies to the Detroit Marathon refinery represents only 1.5% of Michigan's gasoline needs; and

WHEREAS, an Enbridge expert stated in court documents that shutting down Line 5 would only impact retail prices of propane and gasoline by a half-cent (\$0.005) per gallon; and

WHEREAS, Line 5 was closed or partially closed by court order for 82 days in the summer of 2020 with no impact on gas or oil prices, thus proving Line 5 is not vital to Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder's rushed, last-second deal with Enbridge ignored his own advisory panel, ignored his own task force, ignored public-comment oppositions from thousands of Michiganders, ignored resolutions of opposition from nearly one hundred local governments, ignored resolutions of opposition from sovereign nations of Native American tribes, all calling for immediate action to curtail oil shipments under and over the public trust waters of the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder's deal left Enbridge with no obligation to build the tunnel and no obligation to set a completion date, yet it sought to allow the dangerously old twin pipelines to continue pumping oil through State lands and waters until the tunnel is completed, even if the tunnel is never built; and

WHEREAS, if completed, a tunnel would be an enclosed space containing a pipeline pumping pressurized and highly explosive natural gas liquids, creating an enormous pipe bomb in the event of a leak; and

WHEREAS, over 25,000 permanent tourism jobs in northern Michigan would be lost following a Line 5 Rupture; and

WHEREAS, the decommissioning and removal of Line 5 would create over 2,000 jobs for Michiganders over several years (Dynamic Risk Study of 2018); and

WHEREAS, the tunnel construction would only create approximately 200 temporary construction jobs for out-of-state specialized contractors, which would vanish when construction is completed after a projected 3-year build; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has the legal authority and duty under public-trust law to manage the bottomlands and waters of the Great Lakes within Michigan to prevent pollution and protect the natural resources of the State; and

WHEREAS, the 1953 Easement gives the Governor the authority to terminate the Easement in the event Enbridge has not complied with the terms; and

WHEREAS, by letter dated 13 November 2020, Governor Whitmer properly revoked the 1953 Easement based on Enbridge's numerous uncorrectable violations and based on her obligations under the public trust doctrine, thus making Enbridge a current trespasser on State lands; and

WHEREAS, Enbridge has openly defied the Governor's lawful order to cease operations and vacate State property in the Straits, and has instead flaunted its continued trespass; and

WHEREAS, the evidence clearly demonstrates that the operation of Line 5 in the Straits of Mackinac poses an imminent risk of cataclysmic damage to the Great Lakes while providing the citizens of Michigan with negligible benefits that can be replaced by safer alternatives; so

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chair of the Michigan Democratic Party (MDP) shall, on the Party's behalf, communicate to the Presidential administration a request that President Biden to declare a climate-change emergency and issue an Executive Order to revoke the permit(s) allowing Line 5 to cross the US-Canada border or operate within the US; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the the MDP supports the Governor's proper revocation of the 1953 Easement, and supports the efforts of the Governor and the Attorney General to enforce the revocation of the Easement and the trespass on State lands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chair of the Michigan Democratic Party shall, on the Party's behalf, call for (1) immediate State action to decommission and remove Line 5 from the Straits of Mackinac and along its entire route across the State, (2) the construction or implementation of an alternative method to deliver propane to Upper Peninsula users, and (3)

the construction or implementation of an alternative method to deliver oil products to refineries in Michigan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party supports uninterrupted and economical energy supplies be provided to all residents of the State, and supports the State in its actions to provide these supplies and prioritize renewable energy sources.

Resolution in Honor of the life of Progressive Activist Zahra Abbas

WHEREAS, The life of Zahra Abbas ended suddenly during the morning of July 28, 2022 while in bed at her family home where she lived with her parents.

WHEREAS, Zahra suffered throughout her life from a very debilitating form of epilepsy that required frequent hospitalizations and surgeries and near death events, but in spite of this Zahra maintained a positive and infectious outlook and determination to stand up and commit to helping others as well as loving and supporting her family.

WHEREAS, Zahra was a strong activist for marijuana legalization for medical and recreational purposes, and benefitted from the administration of marijuana to help control her epilepsy.

WHEREAS, Zahra was an active participant in the Epilepsy Foundation to educate the public, provide an example of what was possible for people with epilepsy, and to advocate for others suffering from this severe medical condition.

WHEREAS, Zahra was committed to being a strong advocate for progressive issues within the Democratic Party. She became a leader in the Progressive Caucus, Cannabis Caucus, Disability Caucus and the Young Dems. She became a member of the State Central Committee of the MDP, and became a delegate to the DNC.

WHEREAS, Zahra was a committed volunteer for other progressive issues such as Proposal 1 and Proposal 2 that were passed and added to the state of Michigan Constitution in 2018.

WHEREAS, Zahra worked tirelessly for progressive candidates on a state and local level in helping them get elected and in working with office holders to advocate for agendas that benefited the most needy.

WHEREAS, Zahra never let the fact of her inability to drive get in her way of getting to places where she could work for the benefit of others.

WHEREAS, Zahra worked to advance her education in spite of difficulties so that she could try to become a medical assistant.

WHEREAS, Zahra was proud of her recent appointment to be in charge of Dearborn Pipers, which was a recreational program in Dearborn for special needs children.

WHEREAS, Zahra right to her last day was one of the most positive and impactful, compassionate, and empathetic people that anyone would want to meet

WHEREAS, on the day before her death she worked with her childrens' program and then came to the Dearborn Dems picnic to mingle with other local Democrats. Who among us knew that when we said goodbye that day that it would be the last time that we would see or hear her.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party (MDP) honor and recognize the short but impactful life of an outstanding human being, Zahra Abbaswho made the lives of others richer for having known her and who made every effort to improve the lives of those less fortunate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MDP advocate and recommend create a memorial fund or program that advances the progressive issues that Zahra worked tirelessly to move forward. That this memorial fund or program be a representation to other young people of the importance of getting involved to make a difference in the lives of others.

Resolution in Support of Bans on Semi-Automatic Assault Weapons and Large-Capacity Ammunition Devices

WHEREAS, gun manufacturers use dangerous marketing tactics to sell assault weapons to the public including: marketing to young people, preying on the insecurities of men and appealing to violent white supremacists; and

WHEREAS, the number of semi-automatic assault weapons in private hands has increased to nearly 20 million; and

WHEREAS, the only purpose of an semi-automatic assault weapon is to injure or kill a large number of people in a short period of time; and

WHEREAS, we have an absolute responsibility to ensure the safety of our families, children, home, communities and schools;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the MDP supports legislation that will criminalize the manufacture, sale, importation, transfer or possession of any type of semi-automatic assault style of weapon or large capacity magazines;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MDP supports legislation that will only allow well-trained, authorized public safety officers and members of the United State military to possess and use any type of semi-automatic firearm or large-capacity magazine.

Resolution in Support of Local Control of Vacation and Short-term Rentals

WHEREAS, the efforts of some legislators in Lansing would remove the control of vacation and short-term rental properties from local governments; and

WHEREAS, vacation and short-term rentals may negatively impact community neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, companies and groups of individuals are buying homes in resort communities and using them only as vacation and short-term rentals; and

WHEREAS, vacation and short-term rentals may cause the cost of all rents in a community to rise; and **WHEREAS** the vacation and short-term rentals may increase or decrease property values in a community; and

WHEREAS, the local elected officials are most knowledgeable about the positive and negative effects of vacation and short-term rentals on their communities;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the MDP supports legislation that keeps the control of vacation and short-term rentals in the hands of the local communities.